



Best management practices: Best management practices that will reduce the risk of trich in your herd include:

- Using virgin bulls or bulls less than 4 years old with an annual test.
- Allowing only virgin heifers or pairs onto common grazing pastures, or cows that have been away from the bull more than 120 days.
- Knowing the disease status and herd health programs of all herds mixing with yours.
- Defining your breeding season; limit it to 60-90 days if possible.
- Working with your veterinarian to determine reproductive health of your herd, by pregnancy checking females and testing all bulls for trich and other reproductive diseases. In particular, MDOL recommends testing bulls if you are experiencing herd fertility problems.
- Avoiding purchasing open or short bred cows (less than 120 days) to mix with your herd.

Trichomoniasis

Trichomoniasis is a venereal disease of cattle caused by the parasitic protozoan *Tritrichomonas fetus*. The disease is inapparent in bulls, but can cause serious reproductive problems in cows. There is no treatment available for infected bulls.

Trich can be economically devastating to producers due to repeat breeding, extended calving, early and occasional late-term abortion, and a high percentage of open cows at pregnancy check (20-50 percent or more). Economic losses to the U.S. beef industry from reduced conception rates, lower weaning weights and increased culling exceed \$100 million annually.

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Montana Trichomoniasis Program

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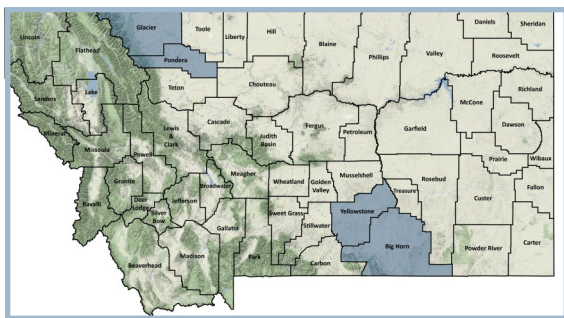
General Information and Recent Changes to the Program



This pamphlet describes the current administrative rules regarding trichomoniasis testing in Montana. The complete rule can be found on our department website: liv.mt.gov

Trichomoniasis Epizootic Area: The epizootic area (EA) for trichomoniasis is an area as defined in Administrative Rule of Montana 32.3.111 that has been determined to have a higher risk of exposure to the disease trichomoniasis.

Counties within the EA: At this time, the entirety of Glacier, Pondera, Yellowstone, and Big Horn Counties are included in the EA.



Testing requirements for bulls: Test requirements will fall under one of two categories, EA or state wide requirements.

EA test requirements include:

- All non-virgin bulls sold, loaned, or leased within or from.
- All non-virgin bulls inspected out of the EA.

State wide requirements include:

- Non-virgin bulls from multiple sources going to a common pasture for breeding.
- Non-virgin bulls imported into Montana..

Identification requirements for bulls undergoing trichomoniasis testing: A MT trich tag or official individual identification must be placed in the ear of all bulls at the time of first trich test.

Open cow restrictions for animals originating from the EA: Open cows from trich positive herds will continue to have restrictions place upon them. Based on public comment, open cow restrictions on animals from the EA and on animals imported into MT was not implemented.

Trichomoniasis negative bull: Any bull with a negative official trich test within the previous 60 days that did not originate from a trich positive herd is considered negative for trichomoniasis.

Official test for trichomoniasis: Three negative weekly cultures or a single negative PCR conducted by a trich accredited veterinarian.

Pooled trich tests: At this time, pooled trich tests are not acceptable as on official test as the science regarding pooling is not yet widely accepted. However, pooling can be used by your veterinarian to provide herd surveillance information.

Bull movements direct to a sale barn: Bulls do not have to be tested prior to movement to market, but bulls originating from the EA without proof of an official negative trich test will be restricted to slaughter channels only unless the bull is less than 12 months old OR less than 24 months old with an owner affidavit

Trich positive test: All bulls testing positive for trich will be immediately quarantined to the ranch of origin until arrangements are made for final disposition of the bull. The entire bull herd will then be required to complete 3 negative weekly PCR tests prior to turn-out and a single negative PCR test following the breeding season before the herd will no longer be considered trich positive.



Restrictions open cows or heifers from a positive herd: All females exposed to positive bulls will be restricted to movement through slaughter channels only unless they are confirmed 120 days pregnant or have been separated from all bulls for 120 days. Virgin heifers will have no restrictions placed upon them.

Animals grazing in common: Because cattle grazing in common are at increased risk, all non-virgin bulls from herds grazing in common are required to test on an annual basis. An annual test exemption may be granted following the submission and approval of a herd health plan to the state veterinarians office.